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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
No. prev. doc.:	5590/16; 5694/16; 6423/16
No. Cion doc.:	COM(2016) 12 final
Subject:	Draft Council Implementing Decision setting out a Recommendation on addressing the deficiencies identified in the 2015 evaluation of the application of the Schengen acquis in the field of Return by Belgium

1. Following the Council's adoption, in 2013, of Regulation (EU) No 1053/2013 establishing an evaluation and monitoring mechanism to verify the application of the Schengen acquis, a team of experts from the Member States and the Commission carried out an evaluation of Belgium's implementation of the Schengen acquis in the field of Return in April 2015.
2. In accordance with that Regulation, the Commission submitted to the Council a proposal for a Council Recommendation designed to address the deficiencies identified in the course of the evaluation and to ensure that Belgium applies all Schengen rules related to Return Policy correctly and effectively.
3. The Working Party for Schengen Matters (Evaluation), including the Mixed Committee partners Norway, Iceland, Switzerland and Liechtenstein, approved the proposal for a Council Recommendation on 4 March 2016 (silence procedure).

4. The Permanent Representatives Committee is therefore asked to recommend that the Council adopt the draft Council Implementing Decision, as set out in 6691/16, as an 'A' item at a forthcoming meeting.
